

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

822

November 4, 2019

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554-0004

Dear Chairman Pai:

As you know, in 2018 Congress overwhelmingly passed and the president signed into law the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act (PL 115-233), which required the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to examine the feasibility of designating a three-digit dialing code for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system.

While we appreciate the diligence of the FCC in issuing its report and recommendation to Congress that 988 be designated for this purpose, some issues do remain.

Therefore, we request that the FCC provide written response to the following questions:

1. Are there current gaps in coverage for the future 988 dialing code? If so, where do these gaps exist?
2. Can universal coverage for 988 be achieved?
3. Who is responsible for the legacy switch upgrades necessary to make the 988 dialing code universal?
4. What is the estimated timeline for any necessary switch upgrades to be completed? What is the FCC doing to ensure these upgrades are completed in a timely manner?
5. Is the FCC able to supplement the costs of these upgrades? If so, to what extent? If not, how does the FCC propose these upgrades should be paid for?
6. How much time is required to make the 988 dialing code nationally operational?
7. What is the timeline required to educate the public on 988? Who is responsible for the cost of any required education campaign?

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for all your efforts and leadership on this critical matter. We request that you please provide responses to these questions by November 22, 2019.

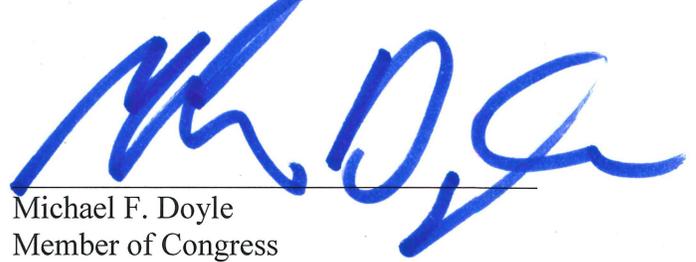
Sincerely,



Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Michael F. Doyle  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



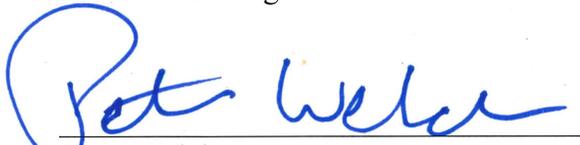
G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



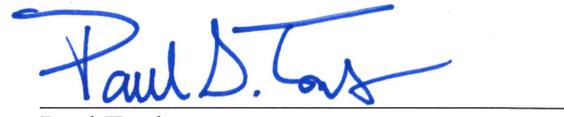
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



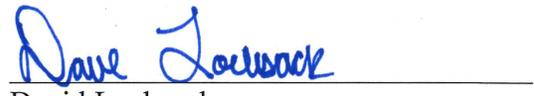
Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



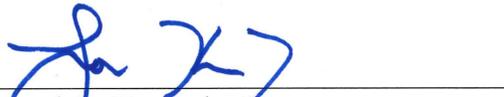
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



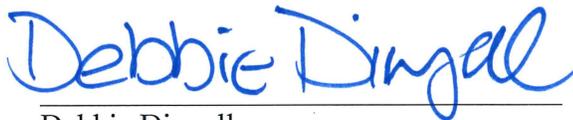
David Loebsock  
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress



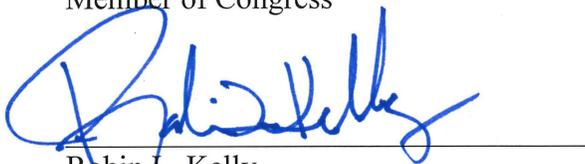
Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress